

Message Text

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ACTION AID-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 FDRE-00 IGA-01 L-02 PC-05

USIA-15 IO-10 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 AGR-10

INT-05 COME-00 /079 W

----- 092061

R 101146Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7851

INFO AMEMBASSY KIGALI

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

UNCLAS BONN 02222

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, GW, BY

SUBJECT: FRG AID TO BURUNDI

1. DURING DISCUSSION OF SEVERAL CENTRAL AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE TOPICS, EMBOFF QUERIED DR. EHM FROM AID MINISTRY REGARDING STATUS OF FRG AID PROGRAM IN BURUNDI. EHM REPLIED THAT THE FRG HAS DECIDED TO GIVE GREATER ATTENTION TO ITS AID PROGRAM THERE AND WILL INCREASE ITS CURRENT COMMITMENT FROM DM 10 MILLION TO APPROXIMATELY DM 30 MILLION IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS.

2. EHM NOTED FIVE REASONS FOR THE INCREASED FRG PROGRAM IN BURUNDI: A) THE POLITICAL SITUATION IS MUCH MORE STABLE THAN A FEW YEARS AGO; B) THE FRG IS QUITE SATISFIED WITH THE PROGRESS OF ITS CURRENT PROGRAMS IN BURUNDI. EHM SINGLED OUT THE WORK OF THE 5 MAN PLANNING TEAM WHICH IS HELPING THE BURUNDI GOVERNMENT PREPARE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS AND ITS FIVE YEAR PLAN; C) THE FRG IS INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN A LARGE NICKEL-MINING PROJECT WHICH UNCLASSIFIED

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THE WORLD BANK HAS PROPOSED. THE FRG INTENDS TO

PLAY A LARGE ROLE IN THE INFRA-STRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT NECESSARY FOR THIS PROJECT; D) PRESIDENT MICOMBERO MADE A PERSONAL REQUEST TO EHM FOR A LARGER GERMAN PROGRAM DURING EHM'S VISIT TO BURUNDI LATE LAST YEAR. (EHM ADDED THAT MICOMBERO, WHO ALSO HOPES TO ATTRACT GERMAN INVESTMENT, ASSURED HIM THAT FOREIGN INVESTMENTS WERE WELCOME IN BURUNDI AND WOULD NEVER BE TOUCHED BY HIS GOVERNMENT); E) THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC WANTS TO ESTABLISH APPROXIMATE PARITY BETWEEN ITS AID COMMITMENTS TO BURUNDI AND RWANDA. (GERMANY IS CURRENTLY SUPPLY AROUND DM 30 MILLION IN ASSISTANCE TO RWANDA).

3. COMMENT: EVEN WITH THE PLANNED INCREASE IN THE FRG PROGRAM, IT WILL STILL REMAIN SMALL IN ABSOLUTE AND RELATIVE TERMS. NONETHELESS, THE FRG APPEARS TO ATTACH CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE TO ITS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM IN BURUNDI, WITH EHM PLANNING TO VISIT LATER THIS YEAR. IN DWELLING UPON THE NICKEL-MINING PROJECT AT SOME LENGTH, EHM ALSO LEFT THE IMPRESSION THAT THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC HAS ITS EYE ON THIS PROJECT AND IS INTERESTED IN A LARGE AND LONG-TERM COMMITMENT.
HILLENBRAND

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BONN02222
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750047-1017
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750258/aaaacafp.tel
Line Count: 85
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AID
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 APR 2003 by RuthemTJ>; APPROVED <07 JAN 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRG AID TO BURUNDI
TAGS: EAID, GE, BY
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006